

HOUSE BILL 296

R1

6lr1710

By: **Delegates Grammer and Metzgar**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Transportation Authority – Vehicle Not Using Bridge – Toll**
3 **Prohibited**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from charging a
5 toll at a toll plaza adjacent to a bridge that is a transportation facilities project for a
6 vehicle that does not traverse the bridge; and generally relating to prohibiting the
7 Authority from charging a toll at a bridge for a vehicle not using the bridge.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 4–101(h) and 4–312(a)(2)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 4–312(c)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 4–101.

22 (h) “Transportation facilities project” includes:

23 (1) The Susquehanna River Bridge, the Harry W. Nice Memorial Potomac
24 River Bridge, the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Chesapeake Bay Bridge and parallel

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, the Fort McHenry Tunnel, the
2 Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway, together with their
3 appurtenant causeways, approaches, interchanges, entrance plazas, toll stations, and
4 service facilities;

5 (2) A vehicle parking facility located in a priority funding area as defined
6 in § 5-7B-02 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

7 (3) Any other project for transportation facilities that the Authority
8 authorizes to be acquired or constructed; and

9 (4) Any additions, improvements, or enlargements to any of these projects,
10 whenever authorized.

11 4-312.

12 (a) (2) As to all or any part of any transportation facilities project, the
13 Authority may:

14 (i) Fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals, rates, fees, tolls, and other
15 charges and revenues for its use or for its services; and

16 (ii) Contract with any person who desires its use for any purpose and
17 fix the terms, conditions, rentals, rates, fees, tolls, or other charges or revenues for this use.

18 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rentals, rates, fees,
19 tolls, and other charges and revenues are not subject to supervision or regulation by any
20 instrumentality, agency, or unit of this State or any of its political subdivisions.

21 (2) This subtitle does not permit the exercise of any power or the
22 undertaking of any activity that would conflict with the provisions and limitations of the
23 federal Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964.

24 (3) Tolls for the use of the bridge carrying the John F. Kennedy Memorial
25 Highway over the Susquehanna River may not be less than the comparable tolls charged
26 for the use of the Susquehanna River Bridge.

27 (4) **AT A TOLL PLAZA ADJACENT TO A BRIDGE THAT IS A**
28 **TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PROJECT, THE AUTHORITY MAY NOT CHARGE A TOLL**
29 **FOR A VEHICLE THAT DOES NOT TRAVERSE THE BRIDGE.**

30 (5) Prior to fixing or revising tolls on any part of any transportation
31 facilities project, the Authority shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
32 Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance
33 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee
34 information on the proposed toll charges, including:

- 1 (i) The annual revenues generated by the toll charges;
- 2 (ii) The proposed use of the revenues; and
- 3 (iii) The proposed commuter discount rates.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2016.